



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

## NMFS ANNOUNCES PROPOSED SEASON LENGTHS AND QUOTAS FOR THE 2006 SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTER COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHERY

The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division proposes to adjust the 2006 second and third trimester season quotas for large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS) based on over- or underharvests from the 2005 fishing season, and announces proposed season opening and closing dates for the second and third trimester seasons of 2006.

Proposed Second Trimester Season				
Species Group	Region	Proposed Opening Date	Proposed Closure date	Proposed Quota
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	July 6, 2006	July 31, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	201.1 mt dw ( 443,345 lb dw)
	South Atlantic		August 16, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	151.7 mt dw (334,438 lb dw)
	North Atlantic		August 6, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	66.3 mt dw ( 146,165 lb dw)
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	May 1, 2006	To be determined, as necessary	38.9 mt dw (85,759 lb dw)
	South Atlantic			333.5 mt dw (735,234 lb dw)
	North Atlantic			24.2 mt dw (53,351 lb dw)
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	May 1, 2006	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)				30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)				162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)
Proposed Third Trimester Season				
Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	September 1, 2006	November 15, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	226.6 mt dw (499,562 lb dw)
	South Atlantic		October 3, 2006 11:30 p.m. local time	56.2 mt dw (123,899 lb dw)
		North Atlantic	CLOSED	
Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw)	Gulf of Mexico	September 1, 2006	To be determined, as necessary	30.8 mt dw (67,902 lb dw)
	South Atlantic			263.7 mt dw (581,353 lb dw)
	North Atlantic			28.2 mt dw (62,170 lb dw)
Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw)	No regional quotas	September 1, 2006	To be determined, as necessary	91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw)
Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw)				30.7 mt dw (67,681 lb dw)
Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw)				162.7 mt dw (358,688 lb dw)

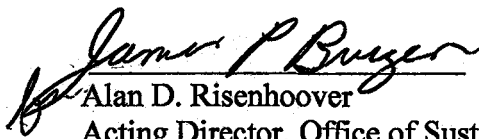


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The comment period for this proposed rule is open for 30 days and will close on March 6, 2006. Written comments may be submitted to the address below or emailed to: [012006A@noaa.gov](mailto:012006A@noaa.gov).

This FAX notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this proposed rule, contact Chris Rilling or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the proposed rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.

  
Alan D. Risenhoover

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

2/15/06  
Date